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In writing of the Council one could perhaps write a more critical study and yet be as sincere a friend of the League. However, it is since the book was written that the Council has developed a more individual character. It is in dealing with the Council and the Assembly that one feels most keenly the need of revision. Any one writing now would have a wealth of material with which to prophesy the future of both bodies.

Those who wish to understand the function of the Secretariat will find in that chapter and in the subsequent one dealing with Minorities and with the Free City of Danzig and the Saar Basin, a clear outline of its many activities. The early history of the Åland Islands dispute will be found in the chapter on the League as Mediator. In the chapters on the transit, labor, and health organization and on Economic Co-operation one gets a vivid appreciation of the benefits, other than political, which even we who are not members of the League may hope to enjoy from the fact of its existence.

Throughout, the author emphasizes the value of this new machinery, yet he takes pains to make it clear that no amount of machinery will be adequate without popular enthusiasm or, as he calls it, "the urge" behind it. The book cannot fail to impart to the reader some of Mr. Sweetser's conviction of the high purpose and possibilities of the League.

SARAH WAMBAUGH.

An Introduction to the History of Japan. By KATSURO HARA.
[Yamato Society Publication.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1920. Pp. xviii, 411. \$2.50.)

THIS is the first publication of the Yamato Society, an organization composed of a number of prominent Japanese gentlemen, whose object is "to make clear the meaning and extent of Japanese culture in order to reveal the fundamental character of the nation to the world; and also the introduction of the best literature and art of foreign countries to Japan so that a common understanding of Eastern and Western thought may be promoted". The author, Professor Katsuro Hara, of the University of Kyoto, is one of the distinguished historical scholars of Japan, and he tells us his book is "intended for those Europeans and Americans who would like to dip into the past, as well as peer into the future of Japan—Japan, not as a land of quaint curios and picturesque paradoxes only worthy to be preserved intact for a show, but as a land inhabited by a nation striving hard to improve itself, and to take a share, however humble, in the common progress of the civilization of the world".

An introductory study which tries to cover nineteen hundred years of a nation's history in 398 pages must present to the author many problems of proportion and emphasis. On the whole, Dr. Hara has apportioned a fair amount of space to an account of the social and cultural

life of the people, even at the expense of other matters which are usually given more prominence in similar works. His book is primarily designed to help the reader to understand modern Japan, for only seventeen pages are devoted to the great events of the past fifty years. Thus the fullest treatment of a period is that of the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1867), to whose political régime, cultural and social conditions, and decline and fall, a hundred pages are given. Here, as might be expected, the necessities of condensation have occasioned surprising omissions. There is, for example, no reference to the first foreign treaties, of 1854, the first to be mentioned being that of 1858 with the United States. This was, of course, the most important of all the treaties of the period, yet it seems as if a history of Japan could hardly overlook Commodore Perry. A similar omission occurs in the treatment of the Christian propaganda in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Although the missionaries are severely condemned, yet there is no adequate statement of the measures taken by the Shoguns to rid Japan of their dangerous teachings.

These comments should not be considered criticisms. They are intended merely to indicate some of the problems of selection. But they also suggest why the reviewer believes that Dr. Hara's work will be read with greater interest by Western students of Japanese history than by persons approaching the subject for the first time. A text of this kind, written in English by a Japanese investigator, should be welcomed by every student. If, occasionally, the author takes too much for granted, and thus may confuse the beginner, the student understands the reference and welcomes the suggestive discussion which accompanies many of the topics, and he will be interested in seeing how a native scholar evaluates the events of Japanese history. But he will note, with regret, the absence of citations to authorities and of a bibliography—a critical estimate of the better known histories written by Western scholars would be of value in a book of this kind—while the lack of any maps greatly lessens the usefulness of the book for the general reader. Some unusual forms of proper names have been adopted in place of those well established in English.

PAYSON J. TREAT.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The Colonization of North America, 1492-1783. By HERBERT E. BOLTON, Ph.D., Professor of American History in the University of California, and THOMAS M. MARSHALL, Ph.D., Professor of History in Washington University. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1920. Pp. xiv, 609. \$4.25.)

THE history of the colonial period in America, long neglected by text-book writers, has meanwhile been revolutionized by the acceptance,